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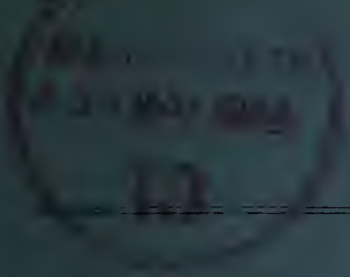

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., Kendal.

SOUTH WESTMORLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., Kendal.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of South Westmorland.

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report of the Health of the Rural District for the year 1937.

The arrangement of the same is similar to that of the previous year and is compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health's communication of October, 1937.

Except where any changes have occurred in the matter of Nursing in the Home, Laboratory arrangements, Hospital accommodation, Ambulance facilities and the establishment of new Clinics and Treatment Centres, the general details have been omitted.

The proper provision of accommodation for the isolation and nursing of infectious diseases on modern lines has been under the consideration of the County Council for some time past but no decision has yet been reached.

Considerable important legislation has come into force during the year, notably the Midwives' Act and Public Health Act, both of which received the Royal Assent in the previous year.

The administration of the Midwives' Act is in the hands of the County Council.

The Public Health Act which has long been overdue replaces the 1875 and Amending Acts, and clarifies the general administration regarding the health Services.

The Education Act of 1936 provides for the raising of the School Age from 14 to 15 years.

During the year, the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation) Act was passed and provides regulations for safety in connection with disinfestation.

The Local Government Superannuation Act brings all Local Authorities into line with regard to the superannuation of officials; in times past there is no doubt that Authorities who had adopted the Act of 1922 were in a position to make more attractive offers of employment to Officers than those who had not adopted the Act.

I am indebted to your Officials for much help and advice on many occasions and especially to the loyal co-operation of your Sanitary Inspectors.

The Medical Profession has been ever ready to place its services at my disposal, and I am grateful to its members for their courtesy which makes for harmony and efficiency.

To one and all I tend my sincerest thanks,

I have the honour to be,
Sir and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
W. BARON COCKILL,
Medical Officer of Health.

3rd May, 1938.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
W. B. Cockill	M.D., etc., D.P.H.	M.O.H.	Part	M.O.H. Westmorland Combined Districts
W. E. R. Thomas	F.I.A.S. A.R.S.I.	Sanitary Inspector	Whole	
F. Kay	Cert. S.I.B.	Additional Sanitary Inspector	Whole	
G. Cooper	C.E.	Water Engineer	Whole	

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending December 31st, 1937.

Area (acres)	151,007
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1937	16,640
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	4,819
Rateable Value	£98,107
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£392. 13. 3.

The District is for the most part agricultural, but there are also a number of industries such as:—

Paper Making.	Postcard and Photo. Printing.
Mat Making.	Box Making.
Wood Turning.	Milk Condensing.
Woollens.	

None of these have any particular influence on Public Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate ..	218	123	95	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 13.8.
Illegitimate ..	11	9	2	
Birth Rate: England and Wales ..				14.9.
Still Births ..	12	7	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 49.7.
Deaths	248	123	125	

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.9
Corrected ,, ,, ,,	12.1
Death Rate: England and Wales	12.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	

Maternal Mortality Rate: England and Wales 3.1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	56
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	91
Infantile Death Rate: England and Wales	58

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	41
,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
,, Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	Nil

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor beyond an epidemic of Influenza has there been any noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District; neither occupation nor environment have had any prejudicial effect on health.

The School Medical Officer does not consider that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or physique of the children, nor is there any direct evidence that adults have been seriously effected from the same cause.

Deaths were registered from the following causes:—

Disease.	M.	F.	Total
Whooping Cough	—	2	2
Influenza	3	5	8
Tubereulosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Other Tubereulous Diseases	—	1	1
General Paralysis of the Insane. Tabes Dorsalis ..	1	—	1
Caneer. Malignant Disease	19	22	41
Diabetes	1	2	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	7	10	17
Heart Disease	30	39	69
Aneurysm	2	—	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	—	8
Bronchitis	2	5	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	6	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3	5
Peptie Uleer	3	1	4
Appendieitis	6	—	6
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Aeute and Chronie Nephritis	2	1	3
Congenital Debility, Prematurity, Malformations, ete.	4	4	8
Senility	—	2	2
Suicide	5	—	5
Other Violenee	13	2	15
Other Defined Causes	11	16	27

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made in these facilities.

Ambulance Facilities.

These facilities remain the same as heretofore.

Nursing in the Home.

There is no change in these arrangements.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been established.

Hospitals.

There has been no change in either the public or voluntary hospital services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

On account of the poor supply to Dalton, Vicarage Lane and Clawthorpe, a new main was laid from New Close Reservoir as far as Nineteen Trees, and from Nineteen Trees via Dalton to connect with the old main at the top of Vicarage Lane, and thereby an excellent service has been provided in connection with the Burton supply.

At Kirkby Lonsdale a new connecting main, between Main Street and the New Road via the Kings Arms Hotel, was provided, and sluice valves have been installed in Market Street and Main Street.

At Natland the old ¾-inch main has been replaced by a new 3-inch one; this has been necessitated by the increase of houses in this part.

Kendal Corporation has taken over the Helmside tank and main.

The main on Helm Common has been scraped and an old 2-inch main was replaced by a 3-inch one to join up with that in High House Lane.

At Meathop the supply from the Arnside main was continually being interrupted by bursts in the course of the pipe-line; the whole of this old pipe has now been replaced by a new one.

The supplies of water to Row, Howe and Stainton villages are still under consideration.

The fields adjoining the Tarn House Reservoir have been drained.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Milnthorpe. Schemes for the extension of the sewerage system and for new disposal works have been prepared.

Whasset. Cesspool for group of houses has been under inspection and a scheme for improvement is in hand.

Holme. A scheme for the extension of 9-inch sewer at Sheerness has been prepared and the works in connection therewith started.

Arnside. An extension of 9-inch sewer to road junction with 6-inch continuation to Briarfield Convalescent Home has been laid.

Staveley. A 6-inch drain has been laid to Gatefoot Cottages, and a scheme for extension to Rawes Mill and to seven adjoining cottages is in hand..

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Burton. No pollution of the stream into which the sewage works outfall empties has been reported this year.

Holme. A complaint was received that some slight pollution had occurred, but this was not found to be serious.

Milnthorpe. From time to time the River Bela has had some slight pollution, and the report from the Rivers' Inspector has been that the effluent is not satisfactory. The present works are inadequate and generally unsuitable for proper treatment. New disposal works are proposed as above outlined.

Apart from these, there has been no other report of rivers and streams pollution.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

37 water closets have been constructed at new houses and 21 as additions to existing houses.

21 water closets have been provided in substitution for 16 privies.

Total number of water closets	2,817
,, privies	2,766

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

In the majority of Parishes where there is sufficient population, the removal of refuse is undertaken by direct labour and the Council's motor lorries. This year the Parishes of Hugill, Nether Staveley and Over Staveley have been added to the Council's direct labour system. The Parishes of Dillicar and Holme are the only two remaining where refuse removal is done by contract.

Refuse tips for Kentmere and for Crosthwaite are under consideration.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The number of inspections during the year was 2,731, which included visits in connection with houses, schools, slaughterhouses, factories, workshops and cowsheds.

The following defects were found:—

Water supplies unsatisfactory	5
Defective closet accommodation	34
Drainage defects	18
Insufficient ventilation	2
Rooms damp	21
Defective roofs, walls and spouts	21
Bedrooms overcrowded	4
Defective cowsheds	2
Other defects	19
Total	126

SHOPS' ACT, 1934.

No cases requiring improvement in the ventilation and temperature of shops have been found, and the provision of sanitary conveniences is sufficient.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Ten observations have been made at the Beetham works, and on three occasions there was a smoke nuisance. The owners are proposing extensions and alterations, and at the same time more efficient draught plant.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned baths which are open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One case of bug infested bedding was dealt with by sulphur cones and mattresses destroyed.

No cases of bug infested houses were found in the course of housing inspections.

SCHOOLS.

No action has been necessary with regard to the sanitary conditions and water supplies pertaining to the schools in the Area.

The following schools were closed during the year in consequence of infectious disease:—

Beetham	Influenza
Endmoor	,,
Hutton Roof	,,
Kirkby Lonsdale	,,
Lupton	,,
Milnthorpe Schools	,,
Mealbank	,,
Preston Patrick	,,
Ings	Whooping Cough

NOXIOUS OR OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No noxious or offensive trades or manufactures have been established during the year.

HOUSING.

Number of Dwellinghouses erected during the year:—

(1)	By the Local Authority	Nil
(2)	By other bodies or persons	37

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:—

(1)	(*a*) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	372
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. ..	786
(2)	(*a*) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	87
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	87
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	181

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.. 96

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(*a*)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	41
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
	(*a*) By Owners	32
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
(*b*)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	15
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:—	
	(*a*) By Owners	6
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. Nil

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 47

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 49

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 339

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

(*c*) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 7

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 22

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the same .. Nil

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .. .. Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

On the Register:—

Farm Premises	930
Retail Purveyors	202
Wholesale Traders	167

The taking of samples of milk under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, has been continued, and 12 samples have been taken, of which 1 was very clean, 3 were clean, 6 moderately clean and 2 dirty. The purveyors of the dirty milk were notified and advised as to the methods to be adopted to ensure a clean supply. Various informal notices have been served on the occupiers of defective cowsheds and improvements have been carried out to several premises as a result.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year 721 visits have been paid to the 30 licensed slaughterhouses, and also to places where occasional slaughtering has taken place.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ..	494	266	98	2073	367
All Diseases except Tuberculosis. All carcases condemned..	—	—	1	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	45	78	1	160	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	9.1	29.3	0.98	7.7	0.28
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	—	4	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	41	74	—	—	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.3	27.8	—	—	13.5

There is no Meat Marketing Scheme in force.

The retail bakehouses and the fish and chip shops have been inspected from time to time and have been found clean and quite satisfactory.

ADULTERATION, ETC., AND CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Milk samples for cleanliness and tubercle bacilli are submitted to the Pathologist at the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, B.Sc., F.I.C., County Analyst, Darlington.

Health Education.

There is a considerable amount of dissemination of knowledge relating to health and disease through the Women's Institutes and through health talks at the schools by the School Medical Officers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a considerable decline in the number of notifiable diseases, and these consisted of Scarlet Fever, 24 cases, 7 of whom were in one

boarding school; 4 of Diphtheria; 6 of Erysipelas; 2 of Puerperal Pyrexia; 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which made a good recovery with no impairment of vision; and 3 of Pneumonia; one of the latter proving fatal, the only death which arose in connection with these notifications.

Diphtheria antitoxin has been promptly utilised, and this is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act; also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes. The Council very wisely are prepared to supply the necessary facilities for artificial immunization against Diphtheria, but so far no advantage has been taken of this provision, but it is quite possible that it may be utilised in the future.

The use of Diphtheria Antitoxin in all suspicious cases, without waiting for a bacteriological opinion, is an increasing practice and one that is very welcome, as early administration is the secret of good results.

The notification of diseases under the Regulations of 19th of October, 1927, have not been of any use. There seems to be scope here for effective economy with no detriment to Public Health.

Hospital accommodation is always available at the Kendal Isolation Hospital so that there is no need to shorten the stay of any case in hospital.

The County Council has had under consideration for the past four years the whole of the Isolation Hospital question for the County; various schemes have been put forward but so far there has been no definite decision.

A widespread epidemic of Influenza occurred during the early part of the year, but fortunately with little fatality.

LABORATORY REPORT.

The following Bacteriological Examinations were done at the Combined Sanitary Districts Laboratory at Kendal.

Diphtheria	Typhoid and Paratyphoid (Agglutinations)	Tubercle (Sputum)	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Urine.		Water.		Blood Disease	Gonorrhœa	Total
				Bacilluria	Deposit	Analysis	B. Coli.			
53	2	1	1	3	1	7	8	9	2	87

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total.	Ages.												Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever	24	—	1	2	—	2	4	4	9	2	—	—	—	24	—
Diphtheria	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	—
Pneumonia	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	41	2	1	2	—	2	7	5	11	5	3	2	1	28	1

A close liaison exists with the School Medical Officers, and thus school notifications are always available and utilised where necessary.

The method of fumigating rooms is by use of formalin tablets.

Facilities for disinfestation are available at Kendal, and 10 persons have been so treated for Scabies.

Arrangements have been made between the Westmorland County Hospital and the Manchester Radium Institute for the treatment of cases of malignant disease by radium when so required.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, with regard to the prevention or treatment of Blindness.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	3	—	2	—	1	—	1

The notifications were about the same in number as in the previous year. There were 8 cases of pulmonary disease of which 2 had contracted the disease outside the Area, but came to reside within it. There were 2 non-pulmonary cases, of which one was fatal.

None of the above who contracted the disease were unemployed.

No action has been necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62 Public Health Act, 1925.

The administration of Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases and Maternity and Child Welfare is under the County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

	Inspections.	Notices.
Factories	8	5
Workshops	12	1
Workplaces	—	—
	—	—
	20	6
	—	—

	Defects Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	1	1
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	2	—
Other Nuisances. Fumes and Smoke	3	3
	—	—
	6	4
	—	—